



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### POST-9/11 GI BILL: TRANSFERABILITY



## WHAT IS TRANSFERABILITY?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows service members (officer or enlisted, Active Duty or Selected Reserve), on or after August 1, 2009, to transfer unused education benefits to immediate family members (spouse and children). The service member must have at least six years of service, and commit to an additional four years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse or child. Because of the potential impact of this benefit on recruiting and retention, transferability policy is determined by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the military services.

[The following DoD Fact Sheet on Post-9/11 GI Bill can be found by clicking this link.](#)

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACT SHEET ON POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERABILITY

While the Post-9/11 GI Bill offers a very generous post-service education benefit, a special provision of the program allows career service members the opportunity to share their education benefits with immediate family members.

The department has established the policies and procedures for this important program. These policies and procedures are described below:

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The effective date of any transfer will be no earlier than August 1, 2009, regardless of application date. All applications will be submitted through the milConnect website, located [here](#).

Service members will be able to securely access this site with a Common Access Card, a DoD Self Service User ID, or a DFAS PIN.

#### ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Any member of the Armed Forces (Active Duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and:

- Has at least 6 years of service in the Armed Forces on the date of election and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



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- Has at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces (Active Duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy (service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute, or
  - Is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2013. A service member is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of Active Duty or 20 qualifying years of reserve service.

### **ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS**

An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual's entitlement to:

- The individual's spouse.
- One or more of the individual's children.
- Any combination of spouse and child.
- A family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits, at the time of transfer to receive transferred educational benefits.
- A child's subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the educational benefit; however, after an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.
- A subsequent divorce will not affect the transferee's eligibility to receive educational benefits; however, after an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee under this section, the eligible individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

## NATURE OF TRANSFER

An eligible Service member may transfer up to the total months of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, or the entire 36 months if the member has used none. Family member use of transferred educational benefits is subject to the following:

- Spouse:
  - May start to use the benefit immediately.
  - May use the benefit while the member remains in the Armed Forces or after separation from Active Duty.
  - Is not eligible for the monthly housing allowance while the member is serving on Active Duty.
  - Can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the service member's last separation from Active Duty.
- Child:
  - May start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces.
  - May use the benefit while the eligible individual remains in the Armed Forces or after separation from Active Duty.
  - May not use the benefit until they have attained a secondary school diploma, or equivalency certificate, or reached 18 years of age.
  - Is entitled to the monthly housing allowance and books and supplies stipend even though the eligible individual is on Active Duty.
  - Isn't subject to the 15-year ending date, but may not use the benefit after 26 years of age.

For more information, call toll-free 1-888-442-4551 (1-888-GI BILL 1) or visit our website at

<http://www.gibill.va.gov>